

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8456

INFO/RUFHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 916

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

US MISSION OECD PARIS 1446

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ENRG, NO

SUBJECT: INTEGRATED ENERGY PROGRAM-NORWEGIAN CONCERNS

BEGIN SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND DISCUSSED WITH ME INFORMALLY NORWEGIAN DIFFICULTIES WITH CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE INTEGRATED ENERGY PROGRAM (IEP) AND HIS CONCERN THAT THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT MIGHT OPPOSE PARTICIPATION, ESPECIALLY IF SOME ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM COULD NOT BE MODIFIED. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FOR DISCUSSION WITH FRYDENLUND BEFORE JULY 24 ON U.S. POSITIONS AND ON THE EXTENT OF U.S. FLEXIBILITY RE THOSE ASPECTS OF THE IEP WHICH CREATE DIFFICULTY FOR NORWAY AND WHICH ARE DISCUSSED BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. NORWAY'S FOREIGN MINISTER, KNUT FRYDENLUND, ASKED ME

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TO DROP BY HIS HOUSE AFTER WORK YESTERDAY AFTERNOON TO

CHAT INFORMALLY ABOUT THE IEP. HE TOLD ME THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE IEP CONCEPT BUT HAD HAD CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN BRINGING ALONG OTHER MINISTRIES. HE WAS NOW PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT OBTAINING PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL. TIMING WAS A PROBLEM SINCE PARLIAMENT WAS IN RECESS UNTIL OCTOBER. MORE IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, WERE THE GROWING NATIONALISM IN NORWAY AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT WOULD REOPEN THE ISSUES AND ANIMOSITIES WHICH HAD SORELY DIVIDED NORWAY IN THE DEBATE ON EEC MEMBERSHIP. PARLIAMENT WAS ALSO LIKELY TO BE RELUCTANT TO SHARE NORWAY'S ENERGY RESOURCES OR TO GIVE UP

EVEN THE SMALL AMOUNT OF SOVEREIGNTY ENTAILED IN IEP PARTICIPATION. PUTTING THE IEP IN THE OECD, MAKING ADHERENCE EASIER FOR OECD MEMBERS WHICH WERE NOT IN THE ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP (ECG), AND MAKING PROVISION FOR POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS BEFORE TRIGGERING THE PROGRAM WOULD MAKE IT CONSIDERABLY EASIER TO SELL THE IEP TO PARLIAMENT. HE ASKED ME TO REPORT NORWAY'S CONCERNS AND TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANY GIVE ON THE U.S. SIDE.

2. PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL- NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE IEP WOULD REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND, PROBABLY, PARLIAMENT ITSELF. THIS RAISED TIMING DIFFICULTIES. THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ECG IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 29 AND JULY 30 AND A FINAL MEETING FOR THE GROUP FOR MID-SEPTEMBER. EACH MEETING OF THE ECG BROUGHT THE IEP FURTHER ALONG AND MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO BACK TRACK. IT WOULD CREATE DIFFICULTIES TO BRING PARLIAMENT'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE BACK TO A SPECIAL SESSION BEFORE MID-SEPTEMBER TO CONSULT IT ON THE IEP. ACCEPTANCE OF IEP OBLIGATIONS WOULD ALSO NECESSITATE CHANGES IN NORWAY'S LAWS GIVING THE GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY POWERS. AT PRESENT THESE LAWS WOULD ONLY ALLOW NORWAY TO FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE IEP IN THE CASE OF A WAR IN WHICH NORWAY WAS INVOLVED.

3. EXPANSION OF IEP PARTICIPATION- AS HE UNDERSTOOD THE U.S. POSITION ON INCLUSION OF NON-ECG COUNTRIES IN THE IEP, E.G., FRANCE, SWEDEN, AND SWITZERLAND, UNANIMOUS APPROVAL

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OF ALL IEP PARTICIPANTS; I.E., ECG COUNTRIES, WOULD BE REQUIRED. THIS AMOUNTED TO GIVING A VETO TO EACH ECG COUNTRY. NORWAY FELT THAT, IF AN OECD COUNTRY WHICH WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE ECG WISHED TO JOIN THE IEP AND WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE IEP- AND THEY WERE CONSIDERABLE-IT SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DO SO WITHOUT BEING SUBJECTED TO THE THREAT OF A VETO. A WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE IEP SHOULD

BE ENOUGH. HE WAS NOT SURE OF THE REASONS FOR THE U.S. POSITION, BUT HOPED WE COULD BE FLEXIBLE. IT WOULD BE EASIER TO GAIN PARLIAMENTARY ACCEPTANCE OF THE IEP IF IT WAS CLEAR THAT OTHER OECD MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY SWEDEN, COULD JOIN THE IEP IF THEY WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT ITS OBLIGATIONS.

4. ROLE OF THE OECD- NORWAY WAS PLEASED THAT THE U.S. APPEARED TO BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT PUTTING THE IEP IN THE OECD. NORWAY STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE OECD, AND PUTTING THE IEP THERE WOULD FACILITATE APPROVAL OF THE IEP BY NORWAY'S PARLIAMENT. NORWAY REALIZED THAT THE OECD WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE RE-STRUCTURED TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE IEP. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAD RECENTLY TOLD HIM THAT FRANCE WAS ALSO FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARDS THE IEP, PROVIDED IT WAS IN THE OECD. HOWEVER, HE HAD HAD A CONFLICTING REPORT FROM GERMANY WHERE FOREIGN MINISTER SCHMIDT HAD INDICATED A MORE RIGID FRENCH POSITION.

5. THE IEP AUTOMATIC TRIGGER-NORWAY ALSO HAD TROUBLE WITH THE AUTOMATICITY OF THE IEP TRIGGER MECHANISM. THERE WAS NO PROVISION FOR POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS. THIS CREATED DIFFICULTIES. FOR EXAMPLE, FRANCE COULD BE BOYCOTTED AS A RESULT OF ITS NUCLEAR TESTING AND THIS COULD TRIGGER THE IEP. THE U.S. HAS ARGUED THAT AN AUTOMATIC TRIGGER PROVIDED A DETERENT, AVOIDED RE-OPENING SENSITIVE ISSUES, AND WAS NECESSARY TO GET CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR SHARING U.S. ENERGY RESOURCES. FRYDENLUND RECOGNIZED THE VALIDITY OF THESE ARGUMENTS, BUT BELIEVED THEY WERE OUTWEIGHED BY THE PROBLEMS THAT COULD ARISE IN THE ABSENCE OF POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS. HE ALSO FELT THIS POINT
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WOULD BE IMPORTANT IN PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATION OF THE IEP.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE BY JULY 24 FOR DISCUSSION WITH FRYDENLUND BEFORE THE NEXT ECG MEETING ON U.S. POSITIONS AND ON THE EXTENT OF U.S. FLEXIBILITY RE THOSE ASPECTS OF THE IEP WHICH CREATE DIFFICULTY FOR NORWAY.
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